



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release January 30, 1986

David Klinger (202) 343-5634

SIXTY ANIMALS AND PLANTS LISTED AS ENDANGERED SPECIES IN 1985, INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES

An increasing number of animals and plants were listed as endangered and threatened species in 1985, according to the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while a record four species were removed from the endangered and threatened species list because they have recovered to the extent that they no longer require such protection.

The brown pelican in the eastern United States and eastern Gulf of Mexico became the first species to be removed from the list due to recovery, having fully recuperated from the devastating effects of DDT and other pesticides on its reproduction. Pelicans in the western Gulf and California remain endangered, however.

"Nearly one quarter of all listed U.S. endangered and threatened species were added in 1984 and 1985," notes William P. Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. "In a way that may be bad news, because listings acknowledge the declining status of animals and plants. But it's good news in the sense that we are now able to grant these species the full protection of the Endangered Species Act and take steps to help them recover."

Listing of new endangered and threatened species accelerated in 1985, with 60 more species being added. Of these species, 58 are found in the United States. In 1984, 47 species joined the list, including 34 native to this country.

The U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Species now totals 883, of which 390 species occur in the United States and 493 inhabit only other countries.

This year's additions range throughout the Nation and across the animal and plant kingdoms, and include an array of species whose names reflect their diversity, such as the interior least tern, the Carolina and Virginia northern flying squirrels, the Conasauga logperch, and Puerto Rico's beautiful goetzea plant. In addition, 47 animals and plants were proposed for listing in 1985; the northern aplomado falcon, the Dismal Swamp shrew, Hawaii's Manua Kea silversword, and the Bruneau Hot Springs snail.

(over)

The Palau fantail flycatcher, the Palau ground-dove, and the Palau owl -- all residents of the tiny Palau Islands in the Caroline Islands group in the western Pacific -- left the protected list this year. These Pacific atoll dwellers were nearly wiped out amid the heavy combat in their habitat during World War II. Since the war's end, they have slowly rebounded, as life has returned to normal.

Other species have required more direct human intervention for their recovery, and 1985 showed some encouraging results. The showy, snow-white whooping crane hit a record population level, with an estimated 131 birds in two wild flocks in the western United States and 38 in a captive-breeding program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland.

Ninety-six whoopers are wintering in Texas -- two near Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge and ninety-four at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, of which 16 are new chicks -- a record number of young for this century, all of whom survived their rigorous, 2,600-mile migration this fall from Canada's Northwest Territories. An additional 30 to 35 whooping cranes inhabit the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, the nucleus of an experimental flock established in 1975. Researchers attribute the banner 1985 year to excellent breeding conditions in Canada and an abundant supply of food that produced some of the largest and healthiest whooping crane chicks on record.

Buoyed by this success in the western United States, Fish and Wildlife Service biologists continue their studies of three potential release sites for whooping cranes in the eastern half of the country: Georgia's Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and central Florida, where non-migratory flocks would be established, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and southern Ontario, where a migratory flock could be created that would winter in Florida.

Florida became the third State to institute a controlled harvest of American alligators in 1985, as the species was reclassified to a less restrictive category that allows a limited amount of hunting under State supervision. Louisiana and Texas preceded Florida in allowing harvests, as the species recovered from the effects of poaching that had diminished its numbers.

There were setbacks among endangered species in 1985, however. The California condor dropped to a record low, with only five birds now left in the wild, and another 22 in captivity. The varied reasons for the decline of the wild population are not fully understood, and biologists have embarked on a crucial series of recovery efforts, including captive breeding projects at two zoos in southern California.

Black-footed ferrets faced a dual threat this year, with the outbreak of plague and canine distemper in northwestern Wyoming where the only known populations of the endangered ferret are found. Plague is believed to have adversely affected local prairie dog populations, upon which the ferrets feed, while distemper killed six captive ferrets and killed an unknown number in the wild. This black-footed ferret population is now estimated to number no more than three to six individuals in the wild, where as late as 1984 estimates put the species' population as high as 128.

(more)

Listing is the first important step toward bringing a species back from the brink of extinction. After species are listed, recovery plans are drawn up by the Fish and Wildlife Service using the expertise of Service and non-Service biologists, conservation organizations, and State and federal natural resource managers to identify activities needed to improve each species' status, such as research, habitat protection, increased law enforcement, improved land management practices, captive breeding, relocations, and establishment of experimental populations. There are now 185 approved recovery plans for endangered and threatened species -- an increase of 26 plans over 1984.

Under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, all listed species are protected from activities of the federal government that would jeopardize their continued existence. All federal agencies are required to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any activities they authorize, finance, or conduct are not likely to cause such jeopardy or destroy a species' critical habitat.

Law enforcement plays an important role in the recovery of listed species by providing a deterrent to illegal activities. In addition to traditional enforcement activities, the Service uses undercover investigations to document violations of federal wildlife protection laws.

A major investigation that included endangered species and resulted in successful prosecutions in 1985 was "Operation Falcon," which revealed a variety of illegal activities, such as the taking of anatum peregrine falcons from the wild. To date, 55 people have been convicted of violating wildlife protection laws involving birds-of-prey, including the Endangered Species Act, and fines now total more than \$324,000.

Also in 1985, a Georgia man was convicted of selling 284 feet of hides from threatened alligators, along with marijuana and untaxed whiskey, and was sentenced to serve 2 years in prison for violating various federal laws. His partner, who poached the animals in South Carolina and provided the hides for sale, was sentenced to 3 years, with two-and-a-half years suspended. Both were placed on probation for 5 years. Also in Georgia, a man who possessed a bald eagle that had been shot to death was sentenced to 6 months in jail and fined \$2,500. In Florida, a man who slaughtered a manatee was sentenced to a year in prison, with 6 months suspended, while another Florida man who killed an endangered Key deer was sentenced to 6 months in jail and fined \$2,500.

"Endangered" means that a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. "Threatened" means that a species is likely to become endangered.

A summary of all final and proposed listing actions, reclassifications, and removals from the endangered species list during 1985 is attached.

--DOI--

FINAL LISTINGS -- U.S. SPECIES

Animals:

Fresno kangaroo rat (California)
 Big Spring spinedace (Nevada)
 Fosskett Spring speckled dace (Oregon)
 Hutton Spring tui chub (Oregon)
 Ash Meadows naucorid (Nevada)
 Interior least tern (18 western States,
 Central and South America)
 Choctawhatchee beach mouse (Florida)
 Perdido Key beach mouse (Alabama, Florida)
 Alabama beach mouse (Alabama)
 Modoc sucker (California)
 Niangua darter (Missouri)
 Tar River spiny mussel (North Carolina)
 Carolina northern flying squirrel
 (North Carolina, Tennessee)
 Virginia northern flying squirrel
 (Virginia, West Virginia)
 Owens tui chub (California)
 Amber darter (Alabama, Georgia,
 Tennessee)
 Conasauga logperch (Georgia,
 Tennessee)
 White River spinedace (Nevada)
 Warner sucker (Oregon)
 White River springfish (Nevada)
 Hiko White River springfish (Nevada)
 Piping plover (20 eastern and midwestern
 States, Canada, Mexico)
 Desert dace (Nevada)

Plants:

San Benito evening primrose
 (California)
 Blue Ridge goldenrod (North
 Carolina, Tennessee)
 Beautiful goetzea (Puerto Rico)
 Rhizome fleabane (New Mexico)
 Carex specuicola (Arizona)
 Large-flowered fiddleneck
 (California)
 Lakela's mint (Florida)
 Ash Meadows sunray (Nevada)
 Ash Meadows gumplant (Nevada,
 California)
 Amargosa niterwort (California)
 Ash Meadows milk-vetch (Nevada)
 Spring-loving centaury (Nevada,
 California)
 Ash Meadows blazing-star (Nevada)
 Ash Meadows ivesia (Nevada)
 Mancos milk-vetch (Colorado,
 New Mexico)
 Miccosukee gooseberry (Florida,
 South Carolina)
 Ruth's golden aster (Tennessee)
 Crenulate lead-plant (Florida)
 Spurge (Florida)
 Garber's spurge (Florida)
 Small's milkpea (Florida)
 Tiny polygala (Florida)
 Loch Lomond coyote-thistle
 (California)
 Vahl's boxwood (Puerto Rico)
 Hawaiian gardenia (Hawaii)
 Maguire primrose (Utah)
 Last Chance townsendia (Utah)
 Short's goldenrod (Kentucky)
 Maguire daisy (Utah)
 San Mateo thornmint (California)
 Fragrant prickly apple (Florida)
 Slender rush-pea (Texas)
 Prickly-ash (Puerto Rico, Virgin
 Islands)
 Scrub balm (Florida)
 Longspurred balm (Florida)

FINAL LISTINGS -- FOREIGN SPECIES

Animals:

Cochito (Mexico)
 Guadalupe fur seal (Mexico)

PROPOSED LISTINGS -- U.S. SPECIES

Animals:

Least Bell's vireo (California, Mexico)
 Northern aplomado falcon (Arizona,
 New Mexico, Texas, Mexico, Guatemala)
 Little Colorado spinedace (Arizona)
 Spikedace (Arizona, New Mexico, Mexico)
 Loach minnow (Arizona, New Mexico, (Mexico)
 Dismal Swamp shrew (North Carolina,
 Virginia)
 Giant kangaroo rat (California)
 Bruneau Hot Springs snail (Idaho)
 Flattened musk turtle (Alabama)
 Waccamaw silverside (North Carolina)
 Florida grasshopper sparrow (Florida)

Plants:

Jones' cycladenia (Utah)
 Cochise pincushion cactus
 (Arizona)
 Lanai sandalwood (Hawaii)
 Mauna Kea silversword (Hawaii)
Hymenoxys texana (Texas)
 Canby's dropwort (Delaware,
 Georgia, Maryland, North
 Carolina, South Carolina)
Achyranthes rotundata (Hawaii)
Minnesota trout lily (Minnesota)
 Tumamoc globe-berry (Arizona,
 Mexico)
 Palmate-bracted bird's beak
 (California)
 Kauai hau kuahiwi (Hawaii)
 Ko'olua 'ula (Hawaii)
 Dwarf naupaka (Hawaii)
 Florida golden aster (Florida)
 Uhiuhi (Hawaii)
 Pond berry (Alabama, Arkansas,
 Florida, Georgia, Louisiana,
 Missouri, Mississippi, North
 Carolina, South Carolina)
 Peter's Mountain mallow (Virginia)
 Toad-flax cress (Utah)
 Santa Cruz cypress (California)
 Steamboat buckwheat (Nevada)
Serianthes nelsonii (Guam,
 Commonwealth of the Marianas)
 Four-petal pawpaw (Florida)
 Beautiful pawpaw (Florida)
 Rugel's pawpaw (Florida)
 Large-flowered skullcap
 (Tennessee, Georgia)
 Prairie bush-clover (Iowa,
 Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin)
 Alabama leather flower (Alabama)
 Jesup's milk-vetch (New Hampshire
 Vermont)

PROPOSED LISTINGS -- FOREIGN SPECIES

Animals:

Buluchistan bear (Pakistan, Iran)
 Cabrera's hutia (Cuba)
 Dwarf hutia (Cuba)
 Little earth hutia (Cuba)

Large-eared hutia (Cuba)
 Buffy tufted-ear marmoset (Brazil)
 Leadbeater's possum (Australia)
 Southern bearded saki (Brazil)

FINAL RECLASSIFICATIONS AND DELISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN

Species:	Range:	Action:
Brown pelican	Alabama, Florida, Atlantic Coast	Delist
American alligator	Florida	"Threatened" to "Threatened by Similarity of Appearance"
Palau fantail flycatcher	Palau	Delist
Palau ground-dove	Palau	Delist
Palau owl	Palau	Delist

PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATIONS AND DELISTINGS -- U.S. AND FOREIGN

Species:	Range:	Action:
Tinian monarch flycatcher	Commonwealth of the Marianas	Delist